

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR LANSING

JOHN D. CHERRY, JR.

November 6, 2007

The Honorable Paul Condino Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee P.O. Box 30014 Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Chairman Condino:

Today I urge you to support House Bills 4616, 4617 and 4618, sponsored by Representatives Meisner and Meadows, which will lift Michigan's decades-old restrictions on embryonic stem cell research.

Stem cell research holds the power to improve the lives of thousands of Michiganians. The men, women and children who suffer from conditions for which there is currently no treatment or cure deserve our help and so do the families and friends who care for them.

Michigan's world-class universities and research hospitals are well-positioned to take a leading role in embryonic stem cell research. Almost every other state in this country allows this critical research and Michigan is losing both researchers and jobs to them. Permitting embryonic stem cell research here could spur economic growth in the life sciences industry, leading to private investment and creating cutting-edge jobs.

But most important, people in Michigan, people in your legislative districts, afflicted with Parkinson's Disease, Juvenile Diabetes, Alzheimer's Disease, spinal cord injury and so many other diseases will now be able to look to their own state for help. And when these cures become available, our constituents should not have to endure the costs of travel to other states for treatment. That would provide hope only to the wealthiest among us.



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Representatives Meisner and Meadows legislation will pave the way for sensible, safe embryonic stem cell research while increasing the penalties for anyone violating the state ban on cloning. Once again, I urge your support.

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Jennifer M. Granholm

Governor